

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that X represents an R-CO- group in 6 locations and an acyl group R-CO- or hydrogen in a seventh location. Claim 1 has been further amended to reinstate 1 to 31 as the range for the number of carbon atoms in the hydrocarbon residue (i), and to provide punctuation and other text changes that improve the readability of the claim. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to specify that in the hydrocarbon residue (i), the chain length of R' differs from that of R by at least two carbon atoms, as opposed to describing the chain length of R' as not more than R minus (-) 2 carbon atoms or at least R plus (+) 2 carbon atoms. Support for amended claim 1 is provided, for example, by page 8, line 30 to page 10, line 2, and original claim 2. Claim 18 has been amended to properly identify the n-nonoyl residue as X, not R.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-50 and 52 to 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 1 moots this rejection.

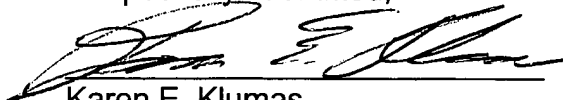
It is further submitted that punctuation changes to claim 24 overcome the objection to this claim, as well as the claims depending therefrom (claims 25 and 26), as being unclear. Claim 27 was also objected to, however, the basis of the objection is not discussed; any rejection of the claim based on its dependency from claim 1 is believed to be overcome by the amendment to claim 1 set forth above.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 11-23, 28-50 and 52-55 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-5, 9-15 and 18-22 of commonly owned U.S. Patent. No. 6,458,344. It is respectfully submitted that the Terminal Disclaimer accompanying this response overcomes this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the subject claims, as hereby amended, is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone her at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen E. Klumas", is written over a horizontal line.

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